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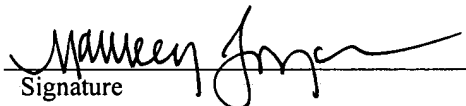
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kirwan et al.  
Serial No: 09/744,698  
Confirmation No: 3328  
Filed: May 14, 2001  
For: UNIVERSAL MODULAR SURGICAL APPLICATOR  
SYSTEMS  
Examiner: Roz Maiorino  
Art Unit: 3763

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**RESPONSE**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

**The Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this response.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this response.